

Law Enforcement - Lassen NF (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700388

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The Lassen National Forest extends from Susanville, California, located on the edge of the Great Basin on the east; to Payne's Creek, California, just a short drive from the central valley of California on the west; to Hat Creek, California, located in the shadow of Mt. Shasta; to Lake Almanor, California, a beautiful recreation lake nestled in the shadow of Mt. Lassen. Encompassing approximately 1.2 million acres of public lands, the Lassen National Forest provides abundant recreational opportunities throughout the four seasons.

Winter brings snowmobile adventures throughout the Forest but use is focused through the management of six snowmobile staging areas (Fredonyer, Swain Mountain, Bogard, Ashpan, Morgan and Jonesville) that provide access to approximately 507 miles of designated groomed and ungroomed trails. Loop riding, staging area to staging area, as well as open area riding is provided by the groomed trail system. Unique high country riding opportunities are also available on Forest lands adjacent to, but certainly not in, the Lassen Volcanic National Park as well as the Caribou and Thousand Lakes Wilderness areas.

As winter secedes to the warmth of spring and summer lengthens into fall, local residences and visitors from significant urban areas (Chico, Red Bluff, Redding, and Reno, NV) flock to the Forest pulling their choice of Off Highway Vehicle (OHV). On the Forest, they utilize approximately 2,585 miles of designated level 2 forest roads in the pursuit of forest product removal, fishing, hunting or simply just enjoying their choice of OHV.

The Forest maintains communication with the recreating public via public information notices in the local paper, a comprehensive internet website, and personal contact with visitors. Public information notices are printed in the local papers to inform visitors about upcoming use restrictions, opportunities to comment on planning processes that affect recreation as well as recreational opportunities on the Forest. The Forest website provides the status of current planning processes, such as route designation; the current status of recreational facilities, including groomed trails; access to maps and brochures; and restrictions in effect throughout the Forest. Information and personal contact with Forest employees is available at each of the Forest offices and the Forest partners with volunteer groups to further disseminate information throughout the recreating community.

In addition, the Law Enforcement Officers and Forest Protection Officers provide information to the public on a daily basis during routine patrols. Further, Forest enforcement personnel utilize enforcement contacts to educate the public regarding planning processes that may effect them, current temporary use restrictions, safe and responsible riding practices, and state and federal laws and regulations applicable to OHV and OSV use. When available, maps and brochures detailing this information is handed out during enforcement contacts.

Unique enforcement circumstances on the Forest vary from season to season. In the summer, the High Lakes OHV area provides a unique high country OHV opportunity. Its proximity (within one hour) to significant urban areas such as Paradise and Chico results in significant use patterns. Motorized use off of designated routes, alcohol consumption and unsafe OHV operations are key enforcement concerns within this area. Throughout the remainder of the Forest, the pains of change are felt as the Forest moves slowly from an "Open" forest to a "Designated Route" Forest. This is especially felt in the more heavily used OHV areas such as the Front Country OHV area where users, who have traditionally enjoyed these areas with limited restrictions, actively resist the change. Consistent enforcement presence in these areas is necessary to ensure compliance with the new vehicle use restrictions. This project includes funds to purchase a UTV and trailer for OHV area patrol.

During the winter, enforcement focus turns to the higher country where snow provides relatively easy access to wilderness areas and the Lassen Volcanic National Park. Identification and contact of violators is very challenging and requires significant effort. Currently, there are five OHV Trust funded snowmobiles and two snowmobile trailers available for OSV patrol. This project includes funds for maintenance and supplies for the five snowmobiles as well as purchase of a sixth

snowmobile.

Through education and enforcement, Lassen National Forest enforcement personnel remain committed to safe, sustainable OHV/OSV recreation and seek to partner with the California Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division in order to maintain a significant level of enforcement of State and Federal OHV regulations throughout the Forest as well as to specifically target the issue of wilderness intrusion and increase the enforcement presence within the High Lakes OHV area.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

Within the congressional boundaries of the Lassen National Forest are 1.2 million acres, or 1875 square miles, of national forest system lands. The Forest is approximately 50 miles wide (west to east) and 66 miles long (north to south). State Highways 32, 36, 44, and 89 provide major access onto the Forest and connection with approximately 713 miles of Forest Level 3, 4, and 5 roads. In turn, the 2,585 miles of designated Level 2 roads spiderweb out from the higher standard roads.

During the summer, all of these level 2 roads are designated and maintained for use by OHVs. During the winter, approximately 311 miles of roads (all levels) are groomed for snowmobile use and closed to wheeled vehicle by Forest Order .

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) generally work Monday through Friday during the daylight hours. They will provide the enforcement backbone during these times, specifically in those areas accessible by vehicle. The FPO patrols during the week will be augmented by Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) who have staggered days off during the week but are available 24/7 for incident response. LEOs will provide routine patrols on the weekends. LEOs and FPOs will combine efforts for specific incident response as well as snowmobile enforcement patrols. Patrol frequency at the snowmobile staging areas and on the groomed trail system are significantly higher than at any location on the Forest during the summer due to the geographical area variation. During the winter season, the snowmobile parks are currently checked at least once per day during the peak hours, usually from 10:00 a.m. to dark. Snowmobile patrols occur on weekends during the same hours.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

Throughout the four seasons, the Lassen National Forest Management team seeks to provide safe, and sustainable off highway vehicle opportunities within their administrative area. As a member of the Lassen National Forest management team, the Law Enforcement and Investigations Patrol Captain assists the team in achieving their management goals by providing critical feedback obtained from his team of Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) and Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) who are in daily contact with all user groups throughout the year.

During the winter snowmobile season, LEOs and FPOs routinely visit the six snowmobile staging areas located throughout the Forest. These visits provide opportunities to monitor activity levels, monitor snow conditions, identify overdue riders, enforce groomed trail restrictions and conduct registration compliance. Snowmobile enforcement patrols are conducted on the groomed trails, and off when necessary, to provide public information, education and assistance in addition to enforcement of laws applicable to over-the-snow vehicle (OSV) operation (i.e. registration, alcohol/drug violations, careless/reckless driving). The snowmobile enforcement patrols also provide opportunities to identify resource damage and wilderness (closed area) intrusion violations. Also, when the unfortunate happens, the LEOs and FPOs respond to investigate OSV accidents and to assist county search and rescue teams in locating lost or injured snowmobilers.

During the summer season, the LEOs and FPOs utilize marked patrol vehicles and OHVs to travel the approximately 2,585 miles of designated level 2 roads. Enforcement personnel stagger their days off and utilize random patrol times to provide an identifiable presence on the Forest through the summer season. Enforcement patrols identify registration, spark arrester, helmet, passenger and alcohol/drug violations in addition to resource damage and closed area intrusions. LEOs and FPOs document and resolve all identified violations through education, enforcement or arrest commensurate with the circumstances and their authority. As in the winter season, enforcement personnel conduct or assist with accident

investigations and search and rescue activities.

Encompassed within the general enforcement activities undertaken by Forest law enforcement personnel are two key enforcement issues. The first is OSV wilderness intrusion. Wilderness intrusion occurs during periods in which the snow conditions are conducive. Attempts to enforce the restriction have met with limited success. Forest enforcement personnel will continue their efforts to curb the illegal entry into the Forest's wilderness.

The second issue is the High Lakes area. Located mainly in Plumas County, the High Lakes OHV area provides challenging OHV opportunities through beautiful high country terrain. Its close proximity to Paradise, Chico and Oroville ensures that it receives consistent use during much of the year. Providing the opportunity for serious OHV enthusiasts to play while protecting the resources to ensure sustainable OHV opportunities has been a continuing challenge for Forest managers. Recent involvement by volunteer groups such as the Friends of the High Lakes has provided hope that this area will remain open for years to come. However, enforcement of applicable laws and regulations within this area is critical to sustainability. It remains a high priority for patrol efforts.

LE Certification

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Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

The High Lakes OHV area is the highest summer enforcement priority for the Lassen National Forest. The influx of off highway vehicle enthusiasts into the area over time places a burden on the natural resources in the area. Off designated route travel is an issue. Cooperative public education efforts with the Friends of the High Lakes are planned as are high visibility enforcement presence within the area. OHV use in any sensitive habitat on the Forest are the focus of routine summer enforcement patrols.

Wilderness intrusions are the highest winter enforcement priority. Coordination with Lassen Volcanic National Park, which borders one of the wilderness areas, to share information and coordinate patrols has occurred on an annual basis. Snowmobile enforcement patrols are conducted on key days (holiday weekends with full moon) with ideal snow conditions. Although it is extremely difficult to make contact with violators, some of these patrols have been successful.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

The proposed project is specifically directed towards the enforcement aspect of OHV recreation management. Engineering, education and enforcement are ongoing processes conducted by Forest OHV management personnel to ensure sustained OHV recreation on the Forest. Forest enforcement personnel educate the public and when necessary, enforce OHV and resource related regulations to provide two legs of the management triangle. The project will provide additional funding to maintain and improve the presence of enforcement personnel for education and enforcement.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

The law enforcement agencies with geographical and jurisdictional commonalities with the Lassen National Forest include: Plumas County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, California Department of Fish and Game, Lassen County Sheriff's Office, Shasta County Sheriff's Office, Tehama County Sheriff's Office, Butte County Sheriff's Office, and Lassen Volcanic National Park.

The Forest Service currently has law enforcement patrol agreements with all six counties to document formal cooperation and reimbursement for law enforcement activities, including OHV/OSV enforcement, on National Forest system lands.

Informal cooperation occurs with all agencies on a daily basis between officers in the field.

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4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit? ☐ Yes ☒ No

(Please select Yes or No)

Explain

Although fees are collected in return for issuance of a permit for an event on national forest system lands these fees are not a significant source of funding and are routinely maintained for management of the permitting process.

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

Mandatory OHV/OSV safety training is required before agency personnel can operate OHV/OSVs in the performance of their duty. This training ensures that enforcement personnel can educate the public on OHV/OSV safety and address unsafe OHV/OSV operation.

In addition, Forest Service enforcement personnel are specifically trained to identify and address natural and cultural resource protection issues. These skills are inherent to their duties.

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7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:

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10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:
- The Lassen/Plumas NF Patrol District does not operate or manage OHV recreation facilities. The Lassen and Plumas National Forests may submit separate applications detailing how their respective OHV recreation facilities are being managed.
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Cost Estimate

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APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Lassen/Plumas NF - Patrol District				
PROJECT TITLE :	Law Enforcement - Lassen NF (FINAL)			PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-02-27-L01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration				
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Lassen National Forest extends from Susanville, California, located on the edge of the Great Basin on the east; to Payne's Creek, California, just a short drive from the central valley of California on the west; to Hat Creek, California, located in the shadow of Mt. Shasta; to Lake Almanor, California, a beautiful recreation lake nestled in the shadow of Mt. Lassen. Encompassing approximately 1.2 million acres of public lands, the Lassen National Forest provides abundant recreational opportunities throughout the four seasons.</p> <p>Winter brings snowmobile adventures throughout the Forest but use is focused through the management of six snowmobile staging areas (Fredonyer, Swain Mountain, Bogard, Ashpan, Morgan and Jonesville) that provide access to approximately 507 miles of designated groomed and ungroomed trails. Loop riding, staging area to staging area, as well as open area riding is provided by the groomed trail system. Unique high country riding opportunities are also available on Forest lands adjacent to, but certainly not in, the Lassen Volcanic National Park as well as the Caribou and Thousand Lakes Wilderness areas.</p> <p>As winter recedes to the warmth of spring and summer lengthens into fall, local residences and visitors from significant urban areas (Chico, Red Bluff, Redding, and Reno, NV) flock to the Forest pulling their choice of Off Highway Vehicle (OHV). On the Forest, they utilize approximately 2,585 miles of designated level 2 forest roads in the pursuit of forest product removal, fishing, hunting or simply just enjoying their choice of OHV.</p> <p>The Forest maintains communication with the recreating public via public information notices in the local paper, a comprehensive internet website, and personal contact with visitors. Public information notices are printed in the local papers to inform visitors about upcoming use restrictions, opportunities to comment on planning processes that affect recreation as well as recreational opportunities on the Forest. The Forest website provides the status of current planning processes, such as route designation; the current status of recreational facilities, including groomed trails; access to maps and brochures; and restrictions in effect throughout the Forest. Information and personal contact with Forest employees is available at each of the Forest offices and the Forest partners with volunteer groups to further disseminate information throughout the recreating community.</p> <p>In addition, the Law Enforcement Officers and Forest Protection Officers provide information to the public on a daily basis during routine patrols. Further, Forest enforcement personnel utilize enforcement contacts to educate the public regarding planning processes that may effect them, current temporary use restrictions, safe and responsible riding practices, and state and federal laws and regulations applicable to OHV and OSV use. When available, maps and brochures detailing this information is handed out during enforcement contacts.</p> <p>Unique enforcement circumstances on the Forest vary from season to season. In the summer, the High Lakes OHV area provides a unique high country OHV opportunity. Its proximity (within one hour) to significant urban areas such as Paradise and Chico results in significant use patterns. Motorized use off of designated routes, alcohol consumption and unsafe OHV operations are key enforcement concerns within this area. Throughout the remainder of the Forest, the pains of change are felt as the Forest moves slowly from an "Open" forest to a "Designated Route" Forest. This is especially felt in the more heavily used OHV areas such as the Front Country OHV area where users, who have traditionally enjoyed these areas with limited restrictions, actively</p>				

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Lassen/Plumas NF - Patrol District
Application: Law Enforcement - Lassen NF (FINAL)

2/26/2010

	<p>resist the change. Consistent enforcement presence in these areas is necessary to ensure compliance with the new vehicle use restrictions. This project includes funds to purchase a UTV and trailer for OHV area patrol.</p> <p>During the winter, enforcement focus turns to the higher country where snow provides relatively easy access to wilderness areas and the Lassen Volcanic National Park. Identification and contact of violators is very challenging and requires significant effort. Currently, there are five OHV Trust funded snowmobiles and two snowmobile trailers available for OSV patrol. This project includes funds for maintenance and supplies for the five snowmobiles as well as purchase of a sixth snowmobile.</p> <p>Through education and enforcement, Lassen National Forest enforcement personnel remain committed to safe, sustainable OHV/OSV recreation and seek to partner with the California Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division in order to maintain a significant level of enforcement of State and Federal OHV regulations throughout the Forest as well as to specifically target the issue of wilderness intrusion and increase the enforcement presence within the High Lakes OHV area.</p>
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : 6 LEO's; 16 days per year	20.000	266.000	DAY	0.00	5,320.00	5,320.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : Overtime/Holiday Patrol	6.000	327.000	DAY	1,962.00	0.00	1,962.00
	Other-Patrol Captain	5.000	376.000	DAY	0.00	1,880.00	1,880.00
	Total for Staff				1,962.00	7,200.00	9,162.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-OSV/OHV Supplies and Maintenance Notes : Belts, plugs, oil, parts, annual maintenance, repairs, etc.	1.000	1038.000	YR	1,038.00	0.00	1,038.00
	Other-Signs and Maps	1.000	4000.000	YR	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				5,038.00	0.00	5,038.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
5	Equipment Purchases						
	Other-UTV	1.000	15000.000	EA	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
	Other-UTV Trailer	1.000	3500.000	EA	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
	Total for Equipment Purchases				18,500.00	0.00	18,500.00
6	Others						
	Training	1.000	2000.000	YR	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Indirect Costs	1.000	2750.000	YR	0.00	2,750.00	2,750.00
Total Program Expenses					27,500.00	9,950.00	37,450.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					27,500.00	9,950.00	37,450.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					27,500.00	9,950.00	37,450.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: USFS - Lassen/Plumas NF - Patrol District
 Application: Law Enforcement - Lassen NF (FINAL)

2/26/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	1,962.00	7,200.00	9,162.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	5,038.00	0.00	5,038.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	18,500.00	0.00	18,500.00	
6	Others	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	2,750.00	2,750.00	
Total Program Expenses		27,500.00	9,950.00	37,450.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		27,500.00	9,950.00	37,450.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		27,500.00	9,950.00	37,450.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment